Algae in ponds and lakes

Graham Paul returns with another opportunity for you to earn more BASIS points

The term ‘Algae’ translates as ‘seaweed’ in Latin and describes a large group of organisms that can be found in saltwater, freshwater, in soils and in a wide variety of other habitats.

Algae exist as single celled or multicellular organisms that vary in size from microscopic to macroscopic – marine seaweeds are actually complex forms of macroscopic algae and some can grow to 50cm in length. Most algae are able to trap sunlight energy by photosynthesis.

The classification of algae is too complex for the scope of this article and like many academic topics is subject to frequent changes. For example, detailed study of the so-called ‘Blue-green algae’ has resulted in them being re-classified as Cyanobacteria – a phylum of bacteria-like organisms that are photosynthetic.

Put the pump or machine up and away from the pond and you will see algae caused by nutrient rich water algae’ that includes many single celled species with the ability to produce a green algal bloom in slow moving or static water.

Causes of algae problems in water

The main cause of algal development in a body of water is an excess of dissolved nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) usually leached from nearby land. Like higher plants, algae need the same growth stimuli but they have branches arranged in whorls and can grow to 1m in length.

They will often form large masses, floating below the surface of the water. The plant can become encrusted with salts extracted from the water and when handled has a ‘tortle’ feel – hence the name.

Cyanobacteria are unicellular organisms that can grow in large numbers under the right conditions, producing an algal bloom that some people refer to as ‘sea soup’. In a static body of water this will cause the dissolved oxygen to become depleted, with consequent harm to any vulnerable aquatic life.

Although Cyanobacteria are no longer classified as ‘true algae’ there is a group we refer to as the ‘Green water algae’ that includes many single celled species with the ability to produce a green algal bloom in slow moving or static water.

Strategies to Control Algae.

There are no longer any chemical controls available to control algal in water in Europe. However, dealing with the problem is a simple matter of taking steps to deny the algae one or more of these growth stimuli. Logically the first step is to consider ways of removing excess nutrients from the water. In the long term we should try to identify the source of nutrients leaching in to the pond or lake and attempt to correct this.

This will be simpler if the source of pollution is under the same ownership as the pond or lake.

There are many golf courses where the water features are polluted by fertiliser applied to other parts of the course. It may be possible to reduce the amount of fertiliser applied to the land nearby and so minimise the nutrients leaching into the water.

Alternatively, conventional fertilisers could be replaced by products with controlled release characteristics.

Over the years fertiliser manufacturers have developed a variety of techniques for extending the release period of their products to achieve a reduction in clipping yields as well as cutting down on nutrient leaching.

Some products employ a nitrification inhibitor to increase the period of nitrogen availability while others use organic nutrition sources that cause a delay in nutrient release while microbial degradation takes place to unlock the plant foods and make them available. A group we refer to as the ‘Green water algae’ that includes many single celled species with the ability to produce a green algal bloom in slow moving or static water.

The next strategy to consider is the use of some products that can supply bacterial cultures in freeze dried forms (e.g. ‘Lake Pak’ from Becker Underwood and Pro-Crystal from Everris). They are usually packaged as measured doses in water soluble sachets to make application very simple.

These products can only be used from late spring onwards, when the water temperature is sufficiently high to sustain the growth and proliferation of the bacteria they contain.

A minimum temperature of 10°C and water pH within the range of 6 to 8 will provide ideal conditions for these bacterial based products to work.

Refer to product manufacturer’s literature for rates of use and treatment recommendations, as these can vary with the product.

It will be necessary to measure the approximate volume of the water requiring treatment to determine how much product is needed.

Aeration of the water is beneficial for the development of bacteria so, if possible, use an aerating fountain to enhance the effectiveness of these products.
to produce hydrogen peroxide – a chemical known to inhibit most species of algae. This is a gradual process that is very temperature dependent, accelerating as the water warms. Once the barley straw treatment becomes effective, it will inhibit algae growth until the straw is almost completely decomposed. As a general rule, the effect of barley straw treatment lasts for about six months. This method probably works out cheaper than using bacterial treatments but the lake or pond will suffer from an unsightly mess left by fragments of rotting straw.

The next method we discuss is the use of water colourants that filter out the wavelengths of light that are essential to algae for photosynthesis.

There is a choice of either blue or black – both produce effective results. They are available in liquid or water soluble sachets. The liquid products are applied from the water’s edge whilst water soluble packs can be thrown out to the middle of a large pond or small lake. The colourants will disperse evenly after a few hours. The use of colourants will also reduce light availability for the growth of submerged weeds as well as algae. Only products that have been developed specifically for algal control in water should be used, as these will have been tested for safety to fish and waterfowl.

Water colourants work earlier in the season than freeze dried bacteria and their use will tend to cause a slight increase in water temperature as a result of the coloured material absorbing some of the sun’s energy. It therefore makes sense to use colourants in combination with bacterial products as an integrated programme.

**CLAIM YOUR BASIS POINTS**

**SELF ASSESSMENT**

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim Two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form at: www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=21

Circle the correct answer(s)

1) Which group of Algae were re-classified as Cyanobacteria?
   a) Filamentous Algae
   b) Blue-green Algae
   c) Stoneworts
   d) Unicellular Algae

2) What is the main cause of Algal problems in ponds and lakes?
   a) Insufficient sunlight getting into the water
   b) An excess of dissolved nutrients in the water (nitrates and phosphates)
   c) High mineral deposits in the water
   d) The lack of chemicals used for their control

3) What is the minimum water temperature recommended when using bacteria to remove excess water nutrients?
   a) 10°C
   b) 15°C
   c) 20°C
   d) 18.5°C

4) When using the traditional barley straw method of removing algae in water, how long may we expect the effect to last?
   a) 6 years
   b) 18 days
   c) 6 months
   d) 18 months

5) What chemical is thought to be responsible for controlling Algae using the barley straw method?
   a) Carbon dioxide
   b) Methane
   c) Ethanol
   d) Hydrogen peroxide

**The Paint**

**The Painter**

**Quick...clean...easy!**

New technology from Rigby Taylor

Freephone 0800 424919  www.rigbytaylor.com
to produce hydrogen peroxide – a chemical known to inhibit most species of algae. This is a gradual process that is very temperature dependent, accelerating as the water warmer. Once the barley straw treatment becomes effective, it will inhibit algae growth until the straw is almost completely decomposed. As a general rule, the effect of barley straw treatment lasts for about six months. This method probably works out cheaper than using bacterial treatments but the lake or pond will suffer from an untidy mess left by fragments of rotting straw.

The next method at our disposal is the use of water colorants that filter out the wavelengths of light that are essential to algae for photosynthesis.

There is a choice of either blue or black – both produce effective results. They are available in liquid or water soluble sachets. The liquid products are applied from the water’s edge whilst water soluble packs can be thrown out to the middle of a large pond or small lake. The colorants will disperse evenly after a few hours. The use of colorants will also reduce light availability for the growth of submerged weeds as well as algae. Only products that have been developed specifically for algal control in water should be used, as these will have been tested for safety to fish and waterfowl.

Water colorants will work earlier in the season than freeze dried bacteria and their use will tend to cause a slight increase in water temperature as a result of the coloured material absorbing some of the sun’s energy. It therefore makes sense to use colorants in combination with bacterial products as an integrated programme.

CLAIM YOUR BASIS POINTS

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim Two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form at: www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=21

Circle the correct answer(s)

1) Which group of Algae were re-classified as Cyanobacteria?
   a) Filamentous Algae  
   b) Blue-green Algae  
   c) Stoneworts  
   d) Unicellular Algae

2) What is the main cause of Algal problems in ponds and lakes?
   a) Insufficient sunlight getting into the water
   b) An excess of dissolved nutrients in the water (phosphates and nitrates)
   c) High mineral deposits in the water
   d) The lack of chemicals used for their control

3) What is the minimum water temperature recommended when using bacteria to remove excess water nutrients?
   a) 10°C
   b) 15°C
   c) 8°C
   d) 15.8°C

4) When using the traditional barley straw method of removing algae in water, how long may we expect the effect to last?
   a) 6 years
   b) 18 days
   c) 6 months
   d) 18 months

5) What chemical is thought to be responsible for controlling Algae using the barley straw method?
   a) Carbon dioxide
   b) Methane
   c) Ethanol
   d) Hydrogen peroxide

Raising the stakes in marking golf course hazard lines

Introducing an innovative linemarking partnership that is an environmentally acceptable alternative to aerosol markers

The Paint

Aeroline is the most advanced, ready to use, line marking paint formulation specifically developed for use on the golf course. No added water, no mixing, measuring or dilution of the paint is required, and there are no expensive waste disposal costs. Just pour into the applicator pack and apply direct to the target surface. 1 litre of paint will apply a 500 metre linear line.

The paint offers a high level of rainfastness that is durable under a wide range of climatic and ground conditions. It contains no hazardous material and has a low carbon footprint with minimal negative impact on the environment.

Three colour formulations white, red and yellow, are supplied in 5 litre plastic containers. 1 litre of paint will apply a 500 metre linear line. The liquid products are applied as an integrated programme.

The Painter

Freeline is the perfect way to mark hazard lines on golf courses offering speed, ease of use and flexibility of application. Designed with simplicity and speed in mind, an ECO hand pressurised spray bottle is connected to the lance and carried using a shoulder harness. The spray bottle is filled with the paint and pumped to the required pressure. Flow is controlled by a trigger assembly on the lance handle.

Economical and environmentally responsible, one 5 litre pack of Aeroline can mark a 2,500 linear metre line without refilling (equivalent to 25 aerosol cans)! To clean, simply change the paint bottle for one holding water and flush the pipes through.

Marking paint formulation specifically developed for use on the golf course. No added water, no mixing, measuring or dilution of the paint is required, and there are no expensive waste disposal costs. Just pour into the applicator pack and apply direct to the target surface. 1 litre of paint will apply a 500 metre linear line.

The paint offers a high level of rainfastness that is durable under a wide range of climatic and ground conditions. It contains no hazardous material and has a low carbon footprint with minimal negative impact on the environment.

Three colour formulations white, red and yellow, are supplied in 5 litre plastic containers. 1 litre of paint will apply a 500 metre linear line. The liquid products are applied as an integrated programme.

The Painter

Freeline is the perfect way to mark hazard lines on golf courses offering speed, ease of use and flexibility of application. Designed with simplicity and speed in mind, an ECO hand pressurised spray bottle is connected to the lance and carried using a shoulder harness. The spray bottle is filled with the paint and pumped to the required pressure. Flow is controlled by a trigger assembly on the lance handle.

Economical and environmentally responsible, one 5 litre pack of Aeroline can mark a 2,500 linear metre line without refilling (equivalent to 25 aerosol cans)! To clean, simply change the paint bottle for one holding water and flush the pipes through.
As is so often the case these days, there is a bewildering array of utility vehicles to choose from. Put together a few basic requirements, however, and that wide choice narrows.

First up, you have the established Cushman Turf-Truckster from Ransomes Jacobsen, the Pro Gator from John Deere and the Workman HDX models from Toro. These models are so familiar it is common for them all to be called the same regardless of who makes them; hands up those of you that call a Workman a Truckster, a Gator a Workman and well, you get the point. A key feature of these ‘heavy duty’ machines is that they are designed to do a lot more than provide a load platform and a passenger seat.

These key models have pretty similar capacities as well; the diesel-powered line-up that comprises the 24hp Pro Gator 2030A rated at 1,182kg, the 26.5hp Workman HDX-D-4WD offering a 1,289kg payload and the 23hp Cushman Turf Truckster offering a 1,293kg capacity. In the real world their overall specifications are broadly similar, with mechanical transmissions and a choice of hydraulic packages to suit specific attachments.

It is important, however, to remember that you need to look at these vehicles in the wider context of what you want them to do. The chances are you will want to consider a range of demount kit that will also fit, such as a sprayer, and it is the easy integration and complete package price of the latter that can have a big influence upon your final buying choices.

It is entirely feasible to specify an ‘off-the-peg’ vehicle based around a utility ‘load’ that will subsequently undertake key spraying, top dressing and even core collecting requirements. The total equipment package could be more cost effective than an array of trailed and tractor mounted alternatives.

This is an important point as heavy-duty utilities are relatively expensive bits of kit; a price tag north of £20K will make any accountant sit up and take notice, but it is the ability of these tools to work with purpose built attachments that can make them a viable buy. Build quality is good too, so expect a long life from well-proven models.

Kitting out a machine with a sprayer is a good example. All the listed models will take a sprayer of around 750 litres, with boom widths of around 6 to 7m dependant upon model. The sprayer will sit low on the machine, to improve stability, with the weight more evenly spread between the wheels than perhaps would be the case with a trailed unit. The same will apply to a top dresser. When these attachments are not in use, they demount easily and free the vehicle for other work.

The caveat is that there are now keenly priced dedicated sprayers available as alternatives; these we looked at in the May issue. The trick is to work out how much work you will do with a sprayer on a utility. If the unit spends more time fitted to the vehicle than sitting in the shed on its stands you may find it more cost effective to buy a dedicated sprayer. Conversely, if you need to rebuild a bunker and ferry turf and sand around, a utility can often do the job better than a tractor and trailer; you do not have that option if you have gone for a dedicated sprayer.

Alternatively, you could also go...
Maximise your utility budget

As is so often the case these days, there is a bewildering array of utility vehicles to choose from. Put together a few basic requirements, however, and that wide choice narrows.

First up, you have the established Cushman Turf-Truckster from Ransomes Jacobsen, the Pro Gator from John Deere and the Workman HDX models from Toro.

These models are so familiar it is common for them all to be called the same regardless of who makes them; hands up those of you that call a Workman a Truckster, a Gator a Workman and well, you get the point. A key feature of these ‘heavy duty’ machines is that they are designed to do a lot more than provide a load platform and a passenger seat.

These key models have pretty similar capacities as well; the diesel-powered line-up that comprises the 24hp Pro Gator 2030A rated at 1,182kg, the 26.5hp Workman HDX-D-4WD offering a 1,289kg payload and the 23hp Cushman Turf Truckster offering a 1,293kg capacity. In the real world their overall specifications are broadly similar, with mechanical transmissions and a choice of hydraulic packages to suit specific attachments.

It is important, however, to remember that you need to look at these vehicles in the wider context of what you want them to do. The chances are you will want to consider a range of demount kit that will also fit, such as a sprayer, and it is the easy integration and complete package price of the latter that can have a big influence upon your final buying choices.

It is entirely feasible to specify an ‘off-the-peg’ vehicle based around a utility ‘skid’ that will subsequently undertake key spraying, top dressing and even core collecting requirements. The total equipment package could be more cost effective than an array of trailed and tractor mounted alternatives.

This is an important point as heavy-duty utilities are relatively expensive bits of kit; a price tag north of £20K will make any accountant sit up and take notice, but it is the ability of these tools to work with purpose built attachments that can make them a viable buy. Build quality is good too, so expect a long life from well-proven models.

Kitting out a machine with a sprayer is a good example. All the listed models will take a sprayer of around 750 litres, with boom widths of around 6 to 7m dependant upon model. The sprayer will sit low on the machine, to improve stability, with the weight more evenly spread between the wheels than perhaps would be the case with a trailed unit. The same will apply to a top dresser. When these attachments are not in use, they demount easily and free the vehicle for other work.

The caveat is that there are now keenly priced dedicated sprayers available as alternatives; these we looked at in the May issue. The trick is to work out how much work you will do with a sprayer on a utility. If the unit spends more time fitted to the vehicle than sitting in the shed on its stands you may find it more cost effective to buy a dedicated sprayer. Conversely, if you need to rebuild a bunker and ferry turf and sand around, a utility can often do the job better than a tractor and trailer; you do not have that option if you have gone for a dedicated sprayer.

Alternatively, you could also go...

Golf courses have really taken to utility vehicles. From Gators to Cushmans and Mules to Workhorses, you see them all over the place. If you have not looked at what is on offer more recently, however, you may not appreciate that the choice of kit on offer has widened. James De Havilland writes...

As is so often the case these days, there is a bewildering array of utility vehicles to choose from. Put together a few basic requirements, however, and that wide choice narrows.

First up, you have the established Cushman Turf-Truckster from Ransomes Jacobsen, the Pro Gator from John Deere and the Workman HDX models from Toro.

These models are so familiar it is common for them all to be called the same regardless of who makes them; hands up those of you that call a Workman a Truckster, a Gator a Workman and well, you get the point. A key feature of these ‘heavy duty’ machines is that they are designed to do a lot more than provide a load platform and a passenger seat.

These key models have pretty similar capacities as well; the diesel-powered line-up that comprises the 24hp Pro Gator 2030A rated at 1,182kg, the 26.5hp Workman HDX-D-4WD offering a 1,289kg payload and the 23hp Cushman Turf Truckster offering a 1,293kg capacity. In the real world their overall specifications are broadly similar, with mechanical transmissions and a choice of hydraulic packages to suit specific attachments.

It is important, however, to remember that you need to look at these vehicles in the wider context of what you want them to do. The chances are you will want...

Maximise your utility budget

As is so often the case these days, there is a bewildering array of utility vehicles to choose from. Put together a few basic requirements, however, and that wide choice narrows.

First up, you have the established Cushman Turf-Truckster from Ransomes Jacobsen, the Pro Gator from John Deere and the Workman HDX models from Toro.

These models are so familiar it is common for them all to be called the same regardless of who makes them; hands up those of you that call a Workman a Truckster, a Gator a Workman and well, you get the point. A key feature of these ‘heavy duty’ machines is that they are designed to do a lot more than provide a load platform and a passenger seat.

These key models have pretty similar capacities as well; the diesel-powered line-up that comprises the 24hp Pro Gator 2030A rated at 1,182kg, the 26.5hp Workman HDX-D-4WD offering a 1,289kg payload and the 23hp Cushman Turf Truckster offering a 1,293kg capacity. In the real world their overall specifications are broadly similar, with mechanical transmissions and a choice of hydraulic packages to suit specific attachments.

It is important, however, to remember that you need to look at these vehicles in the wider context of what you want them to do. The chances are you will want...
left field and buy a dedicated sprayer and a more general-purpose utility vehicle.

The latter need not have the heavy-duty capacity or fixed forward speed ability of a big Toro, Cushman or Deere, but if your need is to help move personnel and kit around, an entry-level petrol model may be the way to go. Take Kawasaki Mule 610 and Polaris Ranger 400.

These machines have a relatively low initial purchase price and are reasonably cheap to run, despite the need to run on petrol.

There are also diesel powered models to consider, such as the evergreen Kawasaki Diesel Mule, together with alternatives from companies such as Club Car, Bobcat, Kubota, JCB to name a few.

The key is to establish the difference between basic utility units designed to have a light footprint and modest load capacity and machines that have a bigger payload and the ability to power attachments.

Often overlooked are battery powered electric vehicles. These tend to go in and out of fashion, but there is no denying these tools do have a future. Polaris, for example are selling increasingly large numbers of its Ranger E, essentially sharing the same chassis as its Ranger 400 sibling with the result of it delivering good performance in more extreme conditions.

However, there are other electric models to consider. These include vehicles that can be specified in road legal form, with Ransomes Jacobsen having recently taken over the importation from France of the Mega electric truck range. This is quite a significant move as Ransomes Jacobsen will no doubt help promote the greater use of this type of vehicle on golf courses. In terms of cost, a road ready electric truck will cost a similar amount of money as a heavy-duty ‘turf truck’; well worth a look.

Regardless of what is on offer, the key to selecting the right utility vehicle is to work out what it has to do. Heavy-duty models fit the bill perfectly when used as ‘self-propelled’ sprayers and top dressers, but they may not be the most economical choice as a general carrier.

If you can take the time to shop around and try several vehicles for a few days, you stand a much better chance of choosing the right tool.
left field and buy a dedicated sprayer and a more general-purpose utility vehicle.

The latter need not have the heavy-duty capacity or fixed forward speed ability of a big Toro, Cushman or Deere, but if your need is to help move personnel and kit around, an entry-level petrol model may be the way to go. Take Kawasaki Mule 610 and Polaris Ranger 400.

These machines have a relatively low initial purchase price and are reasonably cheap to run, despite the need to run on petrol.

There are also diesel powered models to consider, such as the evergreen Kawasaki Diesel Mule, together with alternatives from companies such as Club Car, Bobcat, Kubota, JCB to name a few.

The key is to establish the difference between basic utility units designed to have a light footprint and modest load capacity and machines that have a bigger payload and the ability to power attachments.

Often overlooked are battery powered electric vehicles. These tend to go in and out of fashion, but there is no denying these tools do have a future.

Polaris, for example are selling increasingly large numbers of its Ranger E, essentially sharing the same chassis as its Ranger 400 sibling with the result of it delivering good performance in more extreme conditions.

However, there are other electric models to consider. These include vehicles that can be specified in road legal form, with Ransomes Jacobsen having recently taken over the importation from France of the Mega electric truck range. This is quite a significant move as Ransomes Jacobsen will no doubt help promote the greater use of this type of vehicle on golf courses. In terms of cost, a road ready electric truck will cost a similar amount of money as a heavy-duty ‘turf truck’; well worth a look.

Regardless of what is on offer, the key to selecting the right utility vehicle is to work out what it has to do.

Heavy-duty models fit the bill perfectly when used as ‘self-propelled’ sprayers and top dressers, but they may not be the most economical choice as a general carrier.

If you can take the time to shop around and try several vehicles for a few days, you stand a much better chance of choosing the right tool.

When it comes to personnel transport, the key is to choose a lighter utility that can carry a modest load. Space for essential tools, replacement greens flags, tools or whatever kit you use are expected as a large load platform is a must.
The Section had an enjoyable day at Craill for their spring outing with over 50 players participating on a course that was in excellent condition. Although the overnight and early morning weather was grim, by the time golf started it was a pretty decent day. The full list of winners are on the website, but by the principal the winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch: Gordon Moir, 33 points.

2nd - Gregor Wilson 33 points.

3rd - Martin Lothian 30 points.


The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. Paires winners were: First class - Winter, 3rd class - Wilson.

A big thanks to Stuart Ferguson for all the administration and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and some more days to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Scottish Section website: www.gigacentralrecreation.org.uk or join us on Facebook, Regards, Gordon Moir

The Glen was very hospitable and the course to play very fair. As usual a great time was had by all those involved in the day which helped to make it a success. Thank you Stewart, Greenmount, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Denholm and the whole staff for the visit. It was a great day for all who were able to attend and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well done to George Sturvat again for making it on the day, but next time be your greens! A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the organisation and planning on the day.

Central

Well, we had our spring outing at the Glen last Tuesday and the weather was perfectly acceptable this time in comparison to the stormy day we had originally planned. Thirty-three players turned up. Here is a list of all the winners:

Scratch winner 68 gross - Philip Butler, Murrayfield Golf Club.

1st class winner Keith Burgess, Hinsel Golf Club.

Runner up, Grant Moran Mortonhall Golf Club

2nd class winner Stuart Ferguson, Duniside Park Golf Club.

Runner up, Ryan McCulloch, Goswick Golf Club

3rd class winner Kenneth Matthew Millen, Girvan Golf Club.

Veterana winner Alistair Holman, Seahouses Golf Club

Best Nett winner Scott Corrigan, Greenburn Golf Club

Price prize James Bainhro, Hinsel Golf Club

Trade winner, Stewart Clayton, Greenclean.

Fingers crossed. The Glen was very hospitable and the course to play very fair. As usual a great time was had by all those involved in the day which helped to make it a success. Thank you Stewart, Greenmount, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Denholm and the whole staff for the visit. It was a great day for all who were able to attend and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well done to George Sturvat again for making it on the day, but next time be your greens! A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the organisation and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and some more days to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Stewart Crawford

A Big thanks to Stuart Ferguson for all the organisation and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and some more days to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Northern Region

The spring outing of the Ayrshire section was a very wet day, Andy Slingsby, 07506407867 was a big help with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Megloughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John McGlinn. Billy won on the 20 June; Neil olferey is moving our area out of range.

A big thanks to Stuart Ferguson for all the organisation and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and some more days to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

I will report on the spring outing results in the next issue and once again if anybody has any information for me could they please get in contact on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolf club.com or by mobile on 07790823914 or 0141 94 5554. Hope you have a good season, Stuart Taylor

Met described as a wind filled day such a success. The 2012 Brunton from Greentech won the overnight and early morning. The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. Paires winners were: First class - Winter, 3rd class - Wilson. A huge thanks to Stuart Ferguson for all the organisation and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and some more days to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Scottland

North East

I shall remember April 19, 2012, at South Shields G.C. for a long time, and it’s not just me; it’s everyone who was a member of the Committee of the North East Section, as it was the worst turning out and best Competition.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of the club, members, owners and the rest of the greenkeeping team, and the weather was kind for an enjoyable experience especially after the rigours of Turnberry in the autumn.

The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. Paires winners were: First class - Wil- liam Mcmeikan 38 points, 2nd - Davids Wason 40 points, 3rd - Ian Mcdonald 35 points, 4th - Ian Barry 34 points. Second class winner - David Wason 40 points, 2nd - Gregor Wilson 35 points, 3rd - Martin Lothian 30 points, 4th - Barry Crute 24 points. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with a score that suggests he spends plenty of time on the golf course.

The Section would like to extend their thanks to South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the use of the Belleisle golf course, always an enjoyable experience.

A big thanks also to Stella Maris and all the limited catering facilities at Belleisle we retired to the Alloa- bosto hotel, where we enjoyed an excellent two-course meal in a private room, so thanks to the staff in the hotel for look- ing after us. I’m sure it will be recognised as a good venue by everyone in attendance.

The only other news I have is that George Sturvat from Greenmount has left and become a self-employed landscape, Chris Walker been appointed first assistant and Connor Bush has been taken on as apprentices; good luck to you all.

It’s that for another month; let’s hope that we start getting some sunshine and not as much rain.

North West

All the latest news from your Section

Well here we go folks, the section golf days are under way. The forecast for the first event at Ainsgworth was pretty poor, but 30 of us mad golfers made the effort. A huge thanks and my respect to you guys who made it, we got a little wet, but we had our fun!

Even bigger thanks go to Eas- ingworth golf club for allowing us to play and for the help of the owner and Belleisle in Ayr, on Tuesday 1st May.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of the owners, staff and the rest of the greenkeeping team, and the weather was kind for an enjoyable experience especially after the rigours of Turnberry in the autumn.

The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. Paires winners were: First class - Wil- liam Mcmeikan 38 points, 2nd - Davids Wason 40 points, 3rd - Ian Mcdonald 35 points, 4th - Ian Barry 34 points. Second class winner - David Wason 40 points, 2nd - Gregor Wilson 35 points, 3rd - Martin Lothian 30 points, 4th - Barry Crute 24 points. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with a score that suggests he spends plenty of time on the golf course.

The Section would like to extend their thanks to South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the use of the Belleisle golf course, always an enjoyable experience.

A big thanks also to Stella Maris and all the limited catering facilities at Belleisle we retired to the Alloa-bosto hotel, where we enjoyed an excellent two-course meal in a private room, so thanks to the staff in the hotel for looking after us. I’m sure it will be recognised as a good venue by everyone in attendance.

The only other news I have is that George Sturvat from Greenmount has left and become a self-employed landscape, Chris Walker been appointed first assistant and Connor Bush has been taken on as apprentices; good luck to you all.

It’s that for another month; let’s hope that we start getting some sunshine and not as much rain.

North West

Hi all.

Well the golf season is cer- tainly up and running and we have had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 40 on good conditions on this seaside links. First of all I have to thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head greenkeeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 30points, which was a three-way tie and Andrew with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Megloughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John McGlinn. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people playing on the Scottish links with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Megloughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John McGlinn. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people playing on the Scottish links with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Megloughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John McGlinn. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people playing on the Scottish links with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Megloughlin and Chris Gibson.
Scotland

The Section had an enjoyable day at Craig for their spring outing with over 50 participants par taking on a course that was in excellent condition. Although the overnight and early morning weather was grim, by the time golf started it was a pretty decent day. The full list of winners are on the website, but by the principal the winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch, Gordon Moir, St Andrews Links, beating Stuart Robertson, Strathmore Golf Centre by a shot. Best Junior nett, K. McFadyen, St Andrews Links. Paul Murphy of Pife Golf Trust won the 1st section and Andy Baxter, Piperdam, won the 2nd. Kevin Brunton from Greentech won the trade prize. Our thanks to Craig Golfing Society their staff and our Patrons for making the day such a success. The 2012 Pairs competition is well under way and all results are on the website.

Congratulations to Sandy Ferguson who will be succeeding John Philp at Carnoustie Golf Club. Reid who will be succeeding to the position.

East

Well, we had our spring outing at the Glen last Tuesday and the weather was perfectly acceptable this time in comparison to the stormy day we had originally planned. Thirty-three players took part and here is a list of all the winners:

Scratch winner 68 gross - Philip Butler, Murryfied Golf Club
1st class winner Keith Burgess, Hinsel Golf Club
Runner up, Grant Moran Mortonhall Golf Club
2nd class winner Stuart Ferguson, Dunais Park Golf Club
Runner up, Ryan McColluch, Goswick Golf Club
3rd class winner Kenneth Macleod, Longniddry Golf Club
Veterana winner Alastair Holman, Selkirk Golf Club
Best Nett winner Scott Cor rigan, Greenburn Golf Club
Price prize James Bambaho, Hinsel Golf Club
Trade winner, Stuart Clay ton, Greenliman limited
Novice prizes nearest the pin at the 13th hole, Pat Allan, Symbole
Longest drive at the 18th hole, Alistair Holman, Mortonhall Golf Club

The Glen was very hospitable and the Kerr, Course Manager, and his staff had the course in excellent condition. As it was played with the Captain Mr. Mike Curry, who was very impressed with the condition of the section, went about our business, so well done to all of you for attending and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well done to George Sturart again for making it on the day, but next time you can beat our boys. A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the administration and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and hope to come back to Hinsel to help the greens grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Stuart Crawford
s.crawford@bigga.co.uk

West

Just a couple of things to mention for the section, the main item being the recent retirement of Peter Boyd as regional administrator after 14 years of service. Peter finished on the 20 April and the west section had a small get together all of those people who had been involved with him over the years through their committee work.

A dinner was arranged at the citation restaurant in town and 12 people from the west turned up along with 3 from the Ayrshire section, all in attendance appeared to enjoy themselves and were delighted to be part of the evening. The section would like to wish Peter an enjoyable retirement and hope we can that he can enjoy some more time with his wife Eleanor and the family.

I attended the annual meeting again this year and the section was over the last few years to help improve the course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the company and even better, the greenkeepers won. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in the day which helped make it such a success for all; Stewart Greenmond, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Desholm and the whole team.

The next big event to consider is the Scottish National Tournament at the Radnor Park golf club on the 20 June; entries have to be submitted to the head office at Altrincham Manor.

I will report on the spring outing results in the next issue and once again if anybody has any information for me could they please get in contact on stuart.taylor@glassgowgolf club.com or by mobile on 079902894 in 0141 944 0554.

I hope you have a good season, Stuart Taylor

Ashyr

The spring outing of the Ayrshire section included Dumfries and Galloway, was held on arguably the best course in Scotland and is a tournament that we can boast as well.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of the greenkeeping team and the rest of the greengreen keeping team, and the weather was kind for an enjoyable round of golf. The second day off time, yet still we struggled. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get just one person from a golf club where they have more than one tee member please! The weather was a three-way tie. Triumphing made it such an enjoyable day.

The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. The prize winners were: First class winner - Wil liam McMclean 38 points, 2nd - David Durnsford 37 points, 3rd - Ian McDonald 35 points, 4th - Ian Barry 34 points. Second class winner - David Watson 40 points, 2nd - Gregor Wilson 33 points, 3rd - Martin Lochan 30 points, 4th - Barry Cratyn 24 points. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with a score that suggests he spends plenty of time on the golf course!

The Section would like to extend their thanks to South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the use of the Belleisle golf course, all an enjoyable experience. The section has reserved limited catering facilities at Bel lieisle we retired to the Albotsbots hotel, where we enjoyed an excellent two-course meal in a private room, the staff in the hotel for look ing after us. I’m sure it will be recommended as a good venue by everyone in attendance.

The only other news I have is that Greentech Eric Lyons has left and become a self-employed landscaper, Chris Walker been appointed as first assistant and Connor Bush has been taken on as part of the team, in good luck to all.

That’s it for another month, let’s hope that we start getting some sunshine and not as much rain.

Jimpy Richardson

Northern Region

Well here we go folks, the sec tion golf days are under way. The forecast for the first event at Eastwood was pretty poor, but 30 of us mad golfers made the effort. A huge thanks and my respect to you guys who made it, we got it wet, but eh we used it.

Even bigger thanks go to East wood golf club for allowing us to play and of course to the members of the Committee of the Northern Region, as it was the worst turned out and again a competition.

I don’t know what the answer is; we have tried changing the day of the event and getting it back to a day that suits everybody, seems to be getting away from the rigours of Turnberry in the autumn.

The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. The prize winners were: First class winner - Wil liam McMclean 38 points, 2nd - David Durnsford 37 points, 3rd - Ian McDonald 35 points, 4th - Ian Barry 34 points. Second class winner - David Watson 40 points, 2nd - Gregor Wilson 33 points, 3rd - Martin Lochan 30 points, 4th - Barry Cratyn 24 points. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with a score that suggests he puts a shift in and come and support the section. We will be having a big change regarding the Treasurers position, we have a candidate who has come forward, but if anybody else fancies the role please let me know.

On the full list you all have noted we received a wee error, the Shef field Golf Club will play up to Westley Hall and not Methilna as stated. Whoops. Anybody wishing to play in this please let me no so, or well 30 placed in good on conditions on this seaside links. First of all I must thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head green keeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 36 points, which was a three-way tie, holding back a 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John Mcglinth. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people interested in playing in the May competition, with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The result was to be a six person team, with a min of 1.30 tee off, so come on guys who want to play in this please let me know s.bradley@bigga.co.uk or by mobile on duncan@lawnsforyou.com. I will report on the spring competition results in the next issue. The next big event to consider is Leasowe Golf Club, of movement from his lawnsforyou.com.

It only rained for the first hour, so come on guys who make it.

Hi all,

Well the golf season is cer tainly up and running and we all had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 40 in good on conditions on this seaside links. First of all I must thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head green keeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 36 points, which was a three-way tie, holding back a 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John Mcglinth. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people interested in playing in the May competition, with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The result was to be a six person team, with a min of 1.30 tee off, so come on guys who want to play in this please let me know s.bradley@bigga.co.uk or by mobile on duncan@lawnsforyou.com. I will report on the spring competition results in the next issue. The next big event to consider is Leasowe Golf Club, of movement from his lawnsforyou.com.

It only rained for the first hour, so come on guys who make it.

Hi all,

Well the golf season is certain ly up and running and we all had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 40 in good on conditions on this seaside links. First of all I must thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head green keeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 36 points, which was a three-way tie, holding back a 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The longest drive and closest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John Mcglinth. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people interested in playing in the May competition, with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Meglich and Chris Gilson.

The result was to be a six person team, with a min of 1.30 tee off, so come on guys who want to play in this please let me know s.bradley@bigga.co.uk or by mobile on duncan@lawnsforyou.com. I will report on the spring competition results in the next issue. The next big event to consider is Leasowe Golf Club, of movement from his lawnsforyou.com.

It only rained for the first hour, so come on guys who make it.
North Wales

Let's hope that, now midsummer is here, we can finally have a break from the rain. The month of April and the beginning of May were hardly anything to get excited about. The spring tournament at Llangollen was a complete washout; thankless- ly everyone took the day and disappointment in their stride and stayed and supported the section. That’s about it for now, please feel free to text, call or email your news. All the best until next month.

Peter Maybury, e-mail: petermaybury@btinternet.com

East Midlands

As the hose pipe ban got into full swing, the rivers and reservoirs started rapidly filling up with the lowest, coolest, wettest April for over twenty years. The East Midlands Section played our Spring Tournament on 2nd April at the newly established golf club, Scraptoft Golf Club. Twenty-four teams played a stroke play Stableford competition with the winners being presented by Nigel Church. The winners were: 1st Jonathan Brewer on 36 points, 2nd Nick Brewster on 35 points, 3rd – 4th, Shaun Goodyer and Paul Hopkins on 34 points each. A special mention to Nigel Church who presented a great test and golfing day. The Gorse is maturing nicely – (just like me some say, others think the truth). Thanks again Waldringfield for your hospitality.

BB&O

As summer approaches and the golfing season kicks into full swing hopefully many of you will have managed to get your hands on the latest BB&O and completed all renovation/maintenance work in what must be the wettest spring for years on record! That said those of you impacted by the hosepipe ban will be pleaseing the resale and are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief. We are happy to help you contact the Master, Michael Treater or bbbeasignatory@gmail.com on Twitter and the course is well supported. Please park at Binfield for the BB&O Cup final; you have only your capital punishment, cane, slipper and blackboard rubber to help with the pupils about life when the school is now all girls and central heating system as the daily norm and as our teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history master, Brian Willmott; you can probably guess his nickname. That’s it until Blackmore GC for the next golf day and the result of which will occupy our minds.

Bingley

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: James

Age: 32

Club: Gomersal

Senior

Greenkeeper

Nickname: Bledger

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 15 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Being involved in golf, working out doors and working with tractor!

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? Probably a farmer, although I'd love to have been a golf course photographer or a musician!

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Picking grass and rooting out the bluebells and even though we have 97% grass the best way to keep control is by hand. I’ve never seen so many stones! If I can’t see what’s going on in front of me another stone again will be too soon!

5. Which thing – other than a pay rise – would improve the greenkeepers’ lot? If our region (Perthshire, Scotland) a little bit of decent weather wouldn’t go

6. Hobbies? Golfing, playing guitar and writing/recording music

7. Favourite Band? Oceansize

8. Favourite Band? Oasis

9. Which team do you support? Queens Of The South

10. What is your claim to fame? I’m the only 3rd year Senior at the Main Stage at the Wickerman Festival, playing with the Buzzcocks and Spiritualized.